

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 SPM-01 COME-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 HEW-08 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 151416Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8973

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1535

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECA, SPOP

SUBJECT: ECA -- CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

1. AT MAY 14 MEETING OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE, UN POP DIR TABAH REVIEWED DOCUMENT ON FUTURE TRENDS OF POPULATION AND REPORTS FOR FOUR SYMPOSIUM. CARRILLO FLORES SAID RESULT OF MEETING WOULD REFLECT AFRICAN VIEWS WITH NO SUBSEQUENT SUSPICIONS THEIR BEING INFLUENCED FROM OUTSIDE AFRICA (APPARENTLY ONLY REFERENCE MADE TO CLOSED NATURE OF SESSIONS). PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS INDICATE AFRICAN DELEGATES GOT MUCH OFF THEIR CHESTS AND IN GENERAL THEIR FEARS ASSUAGED. CARRILLO FLORES AND TABAH CREDITED WITH MASTERFUL ANSWERS.

2. LESOTHO SPOKE POSITIVELY OF NEED TO COPE WITH POPULATION VARIABLE REGARDLESS OF POLICY. TWO MOST NEGATIVE DELEGATES ARE SAID TO BE GABON AND ETHIOPIA. GAOBON INQUIRED WHY A WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION WHEN GABON SO DIFFERENT FROM REST OF AFRICA (REFERENCE TO GOBON SUB-FECUNDITY). ETHIOPIAN DELEGATE (MAAZA BEKELE, NATURALIZED ETHIOPIAN OF JAMAICAN ORIGIN IN MINISTRY OF PLANNING), WHO WAS ONLY WOMAN ON THE 24 REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATIONS, SAID PEOPLE WERE ETHIOPIA'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE. SHE EXPOSTULATED THAT NO FAMILY PLANNING WOULD WORK UNTIL ALL OTHER SECTORS DEVELOPED-- CITING INTER ALIA HEALTH , EDUCATION,

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LITERACY. TABAH PROVIDED INDIRECT ANSWER BY SAYING HE HAD RECENTLY

BEEN IN BANGLADESH AND COULD NOT SAY OVERCOMING ILLITERACY WAS ANSWER IN DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THAT MAGNITUDE. CARRILLO FLORES INDICATED EVEN IN LATIN AMERICA RAPID POPULATION GROWTH CURRING DEVELOPMENT.

3. TABAH COUNTERED ARGUMENTS THAT POPULATION POLICIES SHOULD AWAIT MORE KNOWLEDGE.SAID ALREADY KNOW A LOT, AND CITED AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAM AS FILLING GAPS. CARRILLO FLORES REMINDED POLITICIANS THEY HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS EVEN WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND FULL INFORMATION.

4. ECA POPULATION CENTER OFFICER-IN-CHARGE GHANSAH (SOM STILL ABSENT) EXPLAINED THAT REASON SO LITTLE ON PLAN OF ACTION IN REPORT OF CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS (MAY 6 - 10, SEE ADDIS 5292) WAS

THAT CONSENSUS REACHED ENDORSING PLAN. AGREED THAT DEMOGRAPHERS WOULD HAVE HOUR AT MAY 15 SESSION TO EXPLAIN WHAT DIFFERENCES DID EXIST AT THEIR CONFERENCE. GHANSAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE MAY HAVE YET OTHER VIEWS ON PLAN. TWO OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA FOR MAY 15, IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF PLAN, ARE ADDRESS BY UNFPA'S SALAS AND ROMANIAN PRESENTATION ON ARRANGEMENTS. ASSESSMENT OF METING SO FAR INDICATES CAUTIOUS IGNORANCE BUT GROWING INTEREST.

5. PRESENCE OF UNFPA'S SADIK ON PODIUM PROMPTED QUESTION OF WHETHER FUND WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING DELEGATION'S ATTENDANCE AT BUCHAREST. SHE DEMURRED, BUT SALAS HAS INFORMED USDEL HE WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY. SALAS WAS REMINDED THAT IF UNFPA FUNDS USED TO FINANCE LIBERATION GROUPS' PARTICIPATION, PROBLEM FOR SOME DONORS COULD BE CAUSED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS05441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740120-0257
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740547/aaaabpto.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECA -- CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE
TAGS: SPOP, ET, XX, ECA, (FLORES, CARRILLO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005